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OCTOBER 2.

The President, Dr. RUSCHENBERGER, in the chair.

Thirty-two members present.

The death of Dr. Edw. Roemer, correspondent, was announced.

Sensitive Stamens in Purslane.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN said the stamens of *Portulaca oleracea* were sensitive. They expanded when the flower opened, and, on being touched, rose slowly, though with some force, and embraced the pistil. On being again touched, they fell back to their former position. After having once gone through this upward and backward movement, they would not repeat it, so far as his observation went. It was better to use the lens to observe the motion on the growing plant in the ground than on a gathered specimen. He remarked on how much there was to observe in the common things around us, and yet the long time it seemed to take us to discover them. About thirty-five years ago, he said, he made the discovery of sensitive stamens in the common garden Portulacas the subject of his first contribution to scientific literature; and one would suppose that he himself at least, with this hint, would have examined the Purslane before now. He spoke of the relationship of *Portulacaceæ* with *Cactaceæ*. *Opuntia* had sensitive stamens, and with the same behavior in the same organs in *Portulaca*, essentially the same viscid juice, and tendency to succulence, there was little beyond an increased number and consolidation of parts in *Cactaceæ* to distinguish them from *Portulacaceæ*.

Emigration of Solanum rostratum.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited a specimen of *Solanum rostratum*, collected by Dr. A. Gattinger, of Nashville, Tennessee, from waste ground about that city, where it had evidently established itself. It is a native of Colorado and contiguous territory, and is believed to be the plant which originally sustained the beetle *Doryphora decemlineata*, until it found a choicer article in the common potato. Mr. M. thought this the first case of its being found east of the Mississippi River. The potato beetle had in a measure forsaken it, and it was now following the beetle.

Dimorphism in Ailantus glandulosa.—Mr. THOMAS MEEHAN exhibited specimens of *Ailantus glandulosa*, gathered on the grounds of Mrs. Aaron V. Brown, of Nashville, Tenn. There were but six to seven pairs of leaflets forming the entire leaf, terminating in a pair, and not with an odd one, as in the normal form. The leaflets were roundish-oval, very oblique at the base, having